

**BEFORE THE STATE ELECTION BOARD
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN THE MATTER OF:

ELDRIDGE HARRIS,

Respondent.

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Case No. 2006-000027

CONSENT ORDER

The State Election Board ("Board") and the Respondent, Eldridge Harris, in lieu of further administrative or legal proceedings, hereby enter into the following stipulations and settlement agreement for the purpose of resolving this matter with the entry of this Consent Order.

STIPULATED FACTS

1.

In the days preceding the July 2006 General Primary in Lamar County, Respondent Eldridge Harris assisted at least 6 voters with preparing their absentee ballots. Respondent Harris took possession of the ballots of at least 3 voters to put in the mail. Respondent Harris was not related to all but one of the voters.

2.

Most, but not all of the voters Respondent Harris assisted were physically disabled or illiterate. Respondent Harris assisted the voters by reading the ballot for the voters, marking the ballots for the voters and/or filling in the information on the Oath of Elector on the absentee ballot envelope. Respondent Harris did not sign the oath on any of the ballot envelopes indicating that he had assisted the voters

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1.

The Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385 (b) by providing assistance to voters who were not disabled or illiterate, by failing to sign the oath indicating that he had assisted the voters, and failing to mark a reason for assisting the voters.

2.

The Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385 (a) and O.C.G.A. § 21-2-574 when he took possession of and mailed the ballots of numerous voters to whom he was not related and/or were not physically disabled.

ORDER

The Georgia State Election Board, having considered the particular facts and circumstances of this case, inclusive of the within and forgoing "Stipulated Facts" and "Conclusions of Law," hereby **ORDERS**, and Respondent ^{Eldridge Harris}~~George Harris~~ hereby agrees, to cease and desist from any further violations of O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385 and O.C.G.A. § 21-2-574. The Respondent shall pay a \$ 600 penalty for the stated violations of the State Election Code. By this Order, the Respondent is hereby reprimanded for his conduct.

This Consent Order, inclusive of its Stipulations and Order, shall not become effective unless and until approved by the Georgia State Election Board. If not agreed to, approved by, and executed on behalf of, the Georgia State Election Board, neither stipulation nor any other part of this agreement shall have any binding legal effect whatsoever and shall not constitute an admission against interest or prejudice the ability of either the Board or Respondent to adjudicate this matter.

(signatures on following page)

SO ORDERED this 30th day of June, 2008.

CONSENTED TO BY:

Karen Handel
KAREN HANDEL
State Election Board

Eldridge Harris
ELDRIDGE HARRIS
Respondent

Kathy S. Smith
Notary Public
My Commissions Expires 03-31-2012